

RFK Documents Released

■ Desk diaries, telephone messages and logs from Robert F. Kennedy's days as U.S. attorney general are among the documents released for the first time Friday by the John F. Kennedy Library and the National Archives.

Included is a memo dated Feb. 18, 1964—less than three months after President Kennedy's assassination—from the Johnson White House asking Robert Kennedy to review his brother's funeral bills. "I tried to pass this on to Sarge," wrote Robert Kennedy's secretary, Angie Novello, referring to Kennedy's brother-in-law, Sargent Shriver, after the White House requested a meeting on the funeral expenses. "But they referred it back to us. Couldn't someone else do this?"

Sprinkled throughout are references to his nine children. "Joe and Kathleen ride in the horse show," his diary notes, referring to his oldest son, Joseph P. Kennedy II, now a Democratic U.S. representative from Massachusetts, and daughter Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, now an assistant U.S. attorney general.

As reported in the Boston Globe, the records do not include Kennedy's desk diaries for 1963 or for periods in 1962, including a 13-day stretch beginning the day before Marilyn Monroe died on Aug. 4. "We've never seen the desk diaries for 1963 or for the gaps in 1962," said Will Johnson, the chief archivist at the Kennedy Library in Boston. "We've asked the Kennedy family for them, but no one really seemed to know if they existed."

After 1963 sadder notations follow: the funeral bills, calls from his sisters about his father's debilitating illness, and a visit to Arlington National Cemetery on St. Patrick's Day 1964 to place a shamrock on his brother's grave.